

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Maidenhead United 0 (a.e.t.)

WYCOMBE Wanderers made hard work of putting Maidenhead United out of the Hitachi Cup in their second round tie at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening.

FIND GOAL TOUCH WYCOMBE

WYCOMBE Wanderers, worried after two disappointing performances this week, go into tomorrow's (Saturday) Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final at Chesham United with only one goal to their credit from 210 minutes of football.

That goal came from a Maidenhead defender on Tuesday night when the Blues struggled to overcome United in the Hitachi Isthmian League Cup. It followed a disastrous 2-0 home defeat at the hands of Tilbury on Saturday.

Wycombe's struggle against Maidenhead, who play in the same Division of the Isthmian as Chesham, suggests they will find the going tough at the Meadow tomorrow. Certainly Wanderers are lacking in confidence at the moment due to their goal drought. But with such a small squad manager John Reardon is unable to make the necessary changes that might improve results.

The main problem, as it has been all season, is in front of goal where none of the forwards have been at their sharpest. The only player who seems anything like on form is Mick Holifield but too much is expected from one man and he badly needs support from his fellow strikers.

Chesham, who lost 3-2 at St Albans on Saturday, should have Gordon Taylor back after a bout of 'flu but Vince Faulkner, their ex-Wycombe defender, is currently out of favour and is not in the first team.

In fact, until half-time the visitors looked stronger and more likely to score and only at the end of a stalemate second half did Wycombe begin to look a Division above United, forcing the only goal in the first period of extra-time.

Maidenhead opened with a flurry of attacks and apart from a three-minute period in which Wanderers forced three corners, began to take control. Steve Green and Mick Chatterton were particularly solid at the back.

Billy Roberts, who started this season with Wycombe had a fine, attacking game in midfield, and Geoff Anthony, another ex-Wanderer, roamed effectively on both flanks. With Carl Lawson always a danger at centre of the attack, the Wanderers back four was made to work.

At the other end poor passing, particularly by Graham McKenzie, who had a wretched game, gave Horseman, Harris and Holifield up front very little of the ball.

Wycombe's best effort after 35 minutes ended with Chatterton clearing off the line.

For the last 15 minutes of the half, United's pressure on the Blues' defence became severe, with Steve Green distributing well to his forwards on both flanks. A fine run down the right by Cowlshaw scudded across the face of the goal and caused Birdseye to concede a corner. A great move involving Roberts,

Cowlshaw and Lawson, saw Lawson's shot flashing inches wide with Peter Spittle beaten.

Coming up to half-time a free kick by Horseman was floated dangerously, but Harris and Holifield failed to move across the flight and the ball lobbed into the 'keeper's arms.

Maidenhead had much of the early play in the second half, but finally Wycombe began to put their game together. Mead headed over, Holifield shot just wide, Birdseye came up for a blistering, acute-angled drive, and a fine, low drive by Evans had the Maidenhead 'keeper at full-stretch.

The goal in the 105th minute came from a cross from McKenzie. It found Alan Phillips free on the left and his powerful header, with Bath for once stranded on his line, screwed off Green's feet into the net.

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Detroit Express 2

THE visit of Detroit Express from America to Loakes Park on Wednesday evening for a friendly match, gave Wycombe Wanderers the chance to give three new trialists a run out and their presence put zest and fight into a side jaded by recent league and cup battles.

Dave Bullis, from Cheltenham College, in particular worked hard and ran well up front, giving Tony Horseman, who had his best game for weeks, more room to manoeuvre in the middle.

After 20 minutes, Detroit, motivated by Steve Earle (ex-Leicester City), scored through Danny Vaughan. But Howard Kennedy sent Ilieievski, the ex-Yugoslav goalkeeper, the wrong way from the penalty spot after Horseman had been sandwiched between Paul Hunter and Andy Johnson.

Wycombe went 2-1 up through a Bullis — Davis — Horseman move. Detroit pulled back through Roberto Arcinigo, and the Blues' winner on 79 mins came from Horseman who chested down a high ball, beat two defenders on the turn, and drove hard into the corner of the net.



The heads go up for the ball at a corner as Maidenhead United attack the Wycombe goal during the Isthmian Hitachi Cup tie at Wycombe on Tuesday.